

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





P694

# United States Department of Agriculture,

## BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Forage Crop Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

---

### BUR CLOVER.

Two species of bur clover are agriculturally utilized in the United States at present, spotted or southern bur clover (*Medicago maculata*) and California bur clover (*Medicago denticulata*). The former is obtainable only in the bur, while the latter is nearly always hulled. California bur clover is not so hardy as southern bur clover, and therefore should not be used excepting along the Gulf coast and in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. In size and habit the two are very much alike. The bur clover is an annual especially valuable for winter grazing. Hogs and cattle eat it greedily, but horses and mules are not fond of it unless it is cured for hay.

*Culture.*—Bur clover does best in light, rich soils, on which it sometimes grows 18 inches high and yields two tons of hay per acre. It thrives fairly well even on red clay soils. It is particularly adapted to growing on Bermuda-grass sod, and the combination gives almost continuous grazing through the year, the bur clover coming on when the Bermuda grass turns brown in the fall and dying about the time the Bermuda grass begins to grow in the spring. Bur clover may be sown any time from August to November. If the seed is hulled it should be sown at the rate of 15 pounds per acre and harrowed in lightly. In the bur the seed weighs 10 pounds to the bushel, and two bushels should be sown to the acre, harrowing or brushing it in lightly. When sown in the bur the resultant plants are nearly always abundantly noded, but this is seldom the case when hulled seed is planted on new ground. Bur clover reseeds itself readily, even if the ground is plowed in late May or June for a summer crop, but it is never troublesome as a weed. Its more extensive use for winter pasturage in the South is strongly recommended.

C. V. PIPER,  
*Agrostologist.*

JULY 7, 1909.



